

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, should not be considered narrowing amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication Number WO 00/14987. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Merely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have elected to accept the Examiner's suggestion for obtaining allowable subject matter by amending independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 12. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 12. Claims 10 and 11 have been withdrawn. Thus, claims 1-3 and 7-9 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication Number WO 00/14987. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/14987 in view of Kinsey (U.S. Patent No. 6,637,166). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

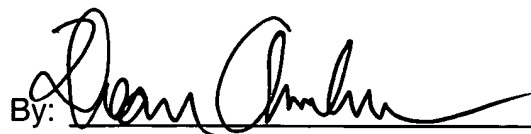
Again, merely to expedite prosecution, the undersigned has elected to accept the Examiner's suggestion for obtaining allowable subject matter by amending independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 12. Thus, dependent claims 4-6 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 2, 2004

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